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Subject: Last Week's DESA, CWD and CASD Weekly News

Sorry for the delay

**Division of Environmental Science and Assessment
Weekly News
May 26, 2016**

Potential or Expected Press Stories

Freedom of Information Requests of RA Interest

Travel/Meetings/Speaking Engagements for Division Directors

Anahita Williamson & Darvene Adams from DESA will be traveling to Lake George, NY June 1-2 to observe the Jefferson Project, a public/private partnership which established a sophisticated continuous water monitoring system for Lake George. EPA Region 1 and Office of Water will also be present.

On June 3rd, Anahita & Jim Ferretti will be speaking at the LI Sound Citizens Science Summit at Stony Brook.

Upcoming Highlights for the week (please provide a bulleted list)

Citizen Science Workshop

On Thursday, May 26 in Edison, NJ, DESA is hosting and CWD is participating in a training workshop for groups involved in the 2016 NY/NJ Region 2 Citizen Science Equipment Loan Program, including the two grantees from the NY/NJ HEP Citizen Science Pathogen Monitoring project. The workshop will encompass field training and equipment operation, instruction on laboratory techniques, as well as data management procedures and use of the WQX/Storet system.

Regional Science & Technology and Applied Science Leadership Workgroup

Anahita Williamson represented Region 2 in the first meeting of the Elevating Regional Science & Technology and Applied Science Leadership Workgroup designed to resolve the longstanding issue of the best location for a national advocate for the Regional Science and Technology Programs. The Deputy Administrator provided the opening remarks which included the charge to the workgroup.

Regional Science Program Study

ORD's Office of Science Policy (OSP), which manages the Regional Science Program that funds the Regional Science Liaison (RSL) and Superfund Technology Liaison (STL) positions within each Region plans to engage the Federal Consulting Group (Susie Hazen and Elaine Wright) to "*identify opportunities and actions that will enhance the collaboration between ORD and Regional management*". The plan is to have the FCG meet with a cross section of the leadership in the regions and ORD as well as RSLs and STLs to make recommendations for the successful implementation of the newly revised MOU that provides the framework for OSP/Regional collaboration. OSP has met with the Region 3 (lead Region for ORD) DRA to outline the study and desired outcomes of enhanced collaboration and improved implementation of the MOU. ORD senior management has also been briefed on the approach.

Open House - DESA/HWSB will have an Open House next week on Thursday, June 2 in NY - Room 27A - 10:00 am - 12:30 pm. The Open House which will cover some of the latest developments in HWSB for site work, such as:

- 1) Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs)
- 2) HWSB's SharePoint Site with a demonstration of the new and improved analytical request form (ARF) & Data Portal on SharePoint;
- 3) Summary Reports and Summary Reports Hits Only Application
- 4) Excel Based Data Visualization, Statistical and Trend Analysis Tools;
- 5) Forensic Analysis & Tools; and,
- 6) Open - Hands-on Demos / Workshop for All

Region 2 Laboratory Projects - The Laboratory will receive samples next week in support of the following projects:

Rocky Hill Montgomery Twp - Superfund:

Volatile Organic Compounds (7 aqueous samples); Metals (2 aqueous samples); Hardness, TSS, TDS, TOC and Sulfate (2 aqueous samples)

Pensinsula Blvd. - Superfund:

Volatile Organic Compounds (60 aqueous samples)

Hopewell Precision - Superfund:

Volatile Organic Compounds (2 aqueous samples)

3T's Lead in Drinking Water - Camden City School District: A conference call is set up for Thursday, 5/26/16, with Camden City School District Representative, Onome Pela-Emore, and EPA to discuss moving forward with potentially conducting the walk-thru of the District's 10 selected schools to prepare for EPA

sampling on Saturday, May 28th and June 4th. The schools are Early Childhood Development Center, Veterans Memorial Family School, Octavius Catto Community Family School, Henry H. Davis Family School, Forest Hill Elementary School, Charles Sumner Elementary School, Dr. Ulysses S. Wiggins Family School, Yorkship Family School, Cooper B. Hatch Family School, and H.B. Wilson Family School. The 10 selected schools comprise grade levels from pre-school to 8th grade. The list of schools will be confirmed during the conference call.

**Clean Water Division
Weekly News
May 26, 2016**

Potential or Expected Press Stories

- None

Contact from Elected Officials

- None

Freedom of Information Requests of RA Interest

- None

Travel/Meetings/Speaking Engagements for Division Directors

Jeff: June 1-3 to Charlottesville, VA to complete "Federal Executive Institute" training course.

Rick: May 31-June 2 to Chicago, IL to attend Great Lakes Executive Committee meeting.

Indian Consultations Requested or Initiated

- None

***Buffalo Media Event for Great Lakes Watershed Highway Signs:** Judith Enck and Don Zelazny, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Great Lakes Program Manager, hosted a media event at Beaver Island State Park on May 20 to highlight a Great Lakes Watershed signage initiative. Fifteen signs are being installed on New York highways at points where they cross into the Great Lakes watershed as part of a cooperative \$15,000 effort funded by EPA, NYSDEC, NYS Department of Transportation and NYS Thruway Authority. The purpose of the signs is to remind people who may not see the Great Lakes as part of their daily lives that they are entering and or living in the Great Lakes Watershed. This is the first time NYS Dept. of Transportation and the Thruway Authority have partnered with EPA's Great Lakes Program efforts. The event was well attended by the media and resulted in newspaper, TV and Radio coverage:



Photo: Judith Enck and Don Zelazny with one of the new signs.

Buffalo News - Watersheds ahead: Officials hope new road signs make environmental sense

WIVB - TV - New Push to Protect Our Water

Lockport Union-Sun & Journal - New Watershed Signs Are Going Up

Empire State News - New Watershed Signs Remind to Protect the Great Lakes

AP - Post Star

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) on non-responsive topic

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) on non-responsive topic

***William Penn Foundation:** Clean Water Division, Division of Environmental Science and Assessment and staff from EPA Region 3 held a conference call with Wm Penn to discuss its extensive Delaware River Watershed Initiative. Wm Penn has provided the Stroud Water Research Center with \$2.5M over two years to implement a citizen science effort in the eight areas in the Delaware Watershed. CWD and DESA will follow up with Stroud and the Academy of Natural Sciences on their monitoring and citizen science projects to ascertain opportunities for collaboration or leveraging of efforts.

***Long Island Sound Citizens Summit:** The 25th Annual Long Island Sound Citizens Summit is being held on Friday, June 3 at Stony Brook University. Mark Tedesco is welcoming participants, Anahita Williamson is speaking about the importance of citizen science in Region 2, and Peter Brandt is participating on a panel that will assess and give feedback to citizen science groups on effective communication. The Summit will focus on celebrating the efforts of citizens who are taking action to protect the Sound. The Summit will also roll out new innovative tools for understanding the Sound's health, and dedicate an entire afternoon of workshops to citizen science monitoring, data analysis, and communicating science with clarity and impact.

***Long Island Sound Dredged Material Management:** EPA is holding public hearings on May 25 (Riverhead, NY and Mattituck, NY) and May 26 (New London, CT) for the proposed designation of dredged material disposal site in eastern Long Island Sound. The proposed preferred alternative, the Eastern Long Island Sound Disposal Site, is located in Connecticut state waters. Region 1 has the lead on the public meetings; CWD will attend the NY meetings. Press and Congressional interest in the designation(s) is high.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) on non-responsive topic

***Puerto Rico Water Quality Standards Regulations:** The CWD Director signed and transmitted a letter approving the revisions to the Puerto Rico Water Quality Standards Regulations. The approved revisions address the following EPA priorities: recreational water quality criteria; freshwater ammonia criteria, numeric nutrient criteria for lakes and reservoirs; and, a downstream protection provision.

***NPDES Updates Rule:** EPA published the proposed NPDES Updates Rule in the Federal Register on May 18, 2016. The comment period runs until July 18, 2016. Of particular interest in the proposed rule is *a provision that would allow EPA to consider administratively continued permits as proposed permits and, thereby,*

enable EPA to object to them. In addition to asking for comments on whether or not to finalize this change, EPA is seeking comments on:

- suggestions for additional parameters to define the scope of the administratively continued permit objection process;
- whether two years, five years, or some other time period is the appropriate threshold for when EPA can designate an administratively continued permit as a proposed permit; and
- whether to provide a state with a 180 day (or some other time period) notice prior to designating an administratively continued permit.

***New York/New Jersey Federal Leadership Resilience Collaborative:** The Collaborative meets monthly to share information on key infrastructure projects and priorities. The upcoming May 31 meeting will focus on FEMA flood mapping and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers NY/NJ Harbor and Tributaries study. Catherine McCabe and/or John Filippelli will attend with staff.

***Allegheny Reservoir Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB):** On May 19, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District and the Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI) hosted an interagency meeting on HAB occurrence in the Allegheny Reservoir. Representatives from EPA Region 2, Pennsylvania, New York, USACE and SNI participated in the meeting. A presentation on the occurrence of HABs in the Reservoir was given by USACE. SNI discussed how the HABs have impacted its use of the water. Each state gave a description of its HAB program and the group discussed goals and monitoring. The group agreed to meet again in November once this season's monitoring has been completed.

***Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP):** The Barnegat Bay Partnership and Barnegat Bay Foundation will host its 19th Annual Barnegat Bay Festival on June 5 in Island Heights. This year's festival theme is "From Pinelands to Tidelands." The more than 60 participating environmental organizations will showcase not only the importance of protecting our natural resources, but all the ways the public can enjoy these resources including water-based activities (such as canoe eco-tours), aquatic touch tank and seining, displays of an interactive storm flood model, and a Native Plant sale that will spotlight Jersey-Friendly yards, the BBP's recently released website providing guidance to homeowners on sustainable gardening. More information can be found at this link: <http://bbp.ocean.edu/pages/208.asp>.

***Nonpoint Source Program Management:** On June 23 in 27D, Donna Somboonlakana, in collaboration with Phillis Feinmark, will be giving a presentation for the Continuing Legal Education credit program about the history of the Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program and the Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990. The presentation is designed to discuss programs and initiatives that have influenced the nonpoint source program for the past 25 years.

***Citizen Science Workshop:** On Thursday, May 26 in Edison, NJ, DESA will host and CWD will participate in a training workshop for groups involved in the Region 2 Citizen Science Equipment Loan Program and the two grantees from the NY/NJ HEP Citizen Science Pathogen Monitoring project. The workshop will encompass field training and equipment operation, instruction on laboratory techniques, as well as data management procedures and use of the WQX/Storet system. EPA supports the use of the WQX/Storet system so that water quality data of documented quality can be made available to a wider audience and for possible use in state and federal water quality programs, including in EPA's new water quality framework.

**Clean Air and Sustainability Division
Weekly News
May 25, 2015**

Other Items:

P2 and LIGW Meeting: On May 24, we had the first of two Pollution Prevention and Long Island Ground Water Meetings. The event was 5 ½ hours long, with 14 total speakers providing six full presentations, a four

member panel discussion in the morning, and a 10 member question and answer session in the afternoon, covering all the meeting topics. We had over 80 attendees. The event was well received with robust audience participation. In addition, there was informal networking taking place during lunch and many attendees stayed to talk with the speakers and with federal and state agency representatives well after the meeting was over. The meeting was filled with content: from a groundwater primer to set the stage, to an introduction of pollution prevention and its' implementation in businesses with an emphasis on protecting groundwater. There was a detailed discussion on personal care products' impact on the concentrations of 1,4 Dioxane in groundwater and discussions on the types of household hazardous wastes and collection programs that are available. There was also discussion on the NYSDEC's Long Island P2 pesticide strategy and the implementation of integrated pest management programs. A demonstration of a new software program to track the extent and concentrations of groundwater contamination was also showcased. This produced a lot of audience interest and participation. Finally, there was a presentation on Circular Economy which received audience interest and provided a general theme for looking at many of the topics discussed throughout the meeting. In addition there was significant outreach on major P2 programs, including Safer Choice, EnergyStar, and a GHG emission supply chain tool. Region 2 also shared a number of our Best Management Practices, Quick Tips, Insights Bulletins, and other information on aspects of P2 and TRI. There was significant interest in a number of the programs and bulletins on auto repair and dry cleaners.

Bi-Annual Meeting with NYSDEC Air Resources: On May 25, CASD and ORC met with NYSDEC Air Resources personnel to discuss various air program issues regarding SIPs, permitting and mobile sources. The status of the Greenidge power plant permit was discussed. EPA relayed that we are continuing to discuss the appropriate permitting provisions with the facility and its consultant. NYSDEC indicated they are deferring any action at this time to see what gets negotiated between Greenidge and EPA. CASD expects to elevate the status of the permit to the RA's office in early June.

New Greenhouse Gas Truck Standards: Monday marked the completion of EPA's final intra-agency review for the second phase of greenhouse gas standards for heavy duty vehicles concluded on Monday. CASD participated on the rulemaking workgroup, following closely issues important to our states and community stakeholders. When fully implemented the forthcoming rule will cut over a billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions, making it one of the most important steps to reduce climate pollution the Agency has ever taken. Standards will extend out to 2027 for heavy duty engines, large pickups and vans, and a whole range of vocational vehicles like garbage trucks and buses. It will also require aerodynamic improvements to box trailers for the first time. While manufacturers will most likely be able to meet the new standards through improvements to diesel engine design and other efficiency gains, the rule contains important incentives to stimulate electric and fuel cell vehicle production. It also closes loopholes that allow remanufactured "glider" vehicles to avoid meeting the latest nitrogen oxide and particulate matter standards. In the rulemaking document we also commit to proposing a new round of nitrogen oxide standards for trucks by 2018, a step urged by our states in order to help achieve ozone air quality standards. The rule will go to the Office of Management and Budget for final review the first week in June.

Northeast Energy Direct: It is now official, Kinder Morgan has provided notice of its withdrawal of the FERC application for the Northeast Energy Direct pipeline. While Kinder Morgan can come back to FERC at any time for this or a similar project, they will have to start the entire application process again.

Plum Island, NY (update): The US House of Representatives voted last week to temporarily halt the sale of Plum Island. Similar legislation is proposed for the Senate, but has not yet been voted on. The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y., and co-sponsored by all five Connecticut House members. The legislation would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to prepare a report detailing options for the disposition of the island, including using it for wildlife conservation or as a national park. The bill would also direct the GSA to stop its attempts to sell the island until 180 days after GAO has submitted its report to

Congress. The bill originally was intended to stop the sale of the island, however, that provision was removed from the legislation out of concern that a halt of the sale might not make it through Congress.